

West Fenwick Park Public Meeting #1 Summary



Location: West Fenwick Park **Date:** 06.20.18 **Weather:** Sunny and mid-70s
Time: 5 PM – 7 PM **Page:** 1 of 5

Present: Hope Gibson, Bryan Higgins | Kent Parks
Stephanie Woirol, Andy Mitton | Berger Partnership

Purpose: Public Input and Comments on Park Improvements

Approximately 34 members of the public provided conversation and comments over the two hour period. About 10 were present due to the mailed flyer; the rest provided input as they were going about their park activities.

Input from community members:

Picnic areas

- Picnic tables and barbeques are often full on nice days, and additional would be used and welcome
- More seating opportunities are needed.
- People often bring their own tables and grills.
- A shelter would be well used – there were questions on whether the shelter would be reservations only or first come first serve

Futsal court

- Implement the futsal court away from the street. Of the two locations proposed, the one near the wall ball/tennis courts was preferred.
- The futsal court was universally liked.

Field

- Find a way to prevent mud and puddles/mushiness
- Improved big field is desired (fix drainage and irrigate)
- One formalized baseball field was mentioned as desirable by one kid
- Provide turf for entire field
- Kids use the field for football and soccer – a big part of the community here

Hand ball courts

- Many park-goers have seen the hand ball courts being used but not usually for hand ball.
- Morning park users do not see it used – afternoon users do
- 1 or 2 bays often are used, sometimes 3. During the meeting all 3 bays were being used (2 by the informal Wednesday racquetball league, 1 for hand ball)
- When asked, the racquetball league said the entire height is needed, and the roof is a good thing. They indicated issues with balls getting stuck on the roof.
- Kids also indicated they've had issues getting balls stuck on the roof (use the wall ball courts for various games) and asked for a slanted roof so the ball would roll off
- One man suggested making the roof more usable as a viewing platform.

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The idea of bouldering was generally liked, as long as fall height safety issues were addressed. Potential to use one hand ball bay as a climbing wall, or to implement a climbing crag at the play area.

Play area

- Upgrade was universally liked.
- Expand and provide more opportunities
- Seating and shade is good
- Keep trees
- Move the fence at the play area so people can access the grassy hillside
- One kid mentioned moving the sidewalk and fence to allow expansion of the play area
- A few kids indicated a desire for a more multi-age play (play for bigger kid's not just little ones).
- Towers were generally liked.
- A couple kids mentioned wanting a very connected playground – wanting the entire play system to be connected. One big structure with lots of places to go.
- Parks referenced as liked: Downtown park, Tacoma. Downtown Park, Bellevue, playground. Seattle Center playground. Wright Park, Tacoma (field, trees, big playground, good structure).
- A few kids mentioned wanting an expanded playground/play elements expanded throughout the park
- Multiple kids (separate families) like the web ball structure
- Multiple kids (separate families) like the urban jungle
- Nets
- Platforms and levels were mentioned multiples times. Activities on platforms. The rubberized bouncy platforms in nets were pointed out as well as stationary platforms.
- Areas to feel like you are 'indoors'
- Arch climber was liked by multiple kids
- Log elements were liked
- Speaking tubes
- Spinners (both big net climber ones and individual seat ones). People miss the merry go round.
- Climbing (change incline of the wall)
- Have the climbing features adjacent to the play area. Both rocks and climbing holds. Climbing crag.
- Monkey bars
- Rings
- Slide bar

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- Zipline
- Bouncy elements
- Multiple people (kids and adults) asked for a spray park – 3 separate parties – or a water element
- Teeter totter
- Nice, large swings (more than two)
- Big slide
- EARTH is noted as being cool

Workout stations

- One man indicated he uses the circuit weekly.
- Other people were seen using them either as hang out spaces or as spaces to lazily work out and watch the action in the park
- A note asks to fix broken stations and/or replace with ones without moving parts
- A note asks for higher pull bars

Sidewalk/paths

- One man indicated the loop path has drainage/large puddle issues in the rainy months especially by the basketball courts and tennis.
- Consider more durable surface than asphalt.
- Provide distance markers along pathways so people know how far they have walked. Provide a sign showing how long combinations of loops are.
- Healthy Kent regularly organized walks for seniors
- A few people mentioned walking dogs

Path lighting

- fixing was universally supported

Basketball

- Well used
- One man indicated a fence between the court and field would be liked
- One man asked for a roof over the whole court for the winter months
- One man asked for court lighting for safety – he thinks the path lighting won't be sufficient
- Provide more seating and shade. No place to hang out currently. Girlfriends watch the boys play basketball.

A sand volleyball court was suggested.

Pickleball courts were suggested. Potentially a new court or reuse of one of the tennis courts?

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Develop connections through the park down to Lake Fenwick so it's safer for kids to ride their bikes to the lake.

Provide more trees!

Bathrooms and drinking fountains

- A note asks to improve restrooms and drinking fountains so they are easier to use
- One kid suggested cleaning and revamping the restrooms
- Bottle filler would be a great asset!
- One woman indicated it was too difficult to use the fountains for filling bottles/drinking out of

Safety

- One woman asked for labeled surveillance cameras to help deter untoward activity
- Generally pot smoking and awareness for child safety at playground were mentioned by a couple mothers
- One kid mentioned homeless people sleeping on the hillside forested area/ park perimeters

Hill

- well used for hiking and working out
- make it safer but keep it raw
- implement a more formal scramble up the hill
- Kid mentioned wanting more paths through the forest (but mentioned homeless people sleeping there deterring his use)
- opportunity for secondary trails to increase usability of park and provide more experiences - nature play
- The lookout was noted as being used – preserve views from upper pathway view area

Parking

- A few people mentioned that the existing lot gets full during popular times
- It was noted that people use the church lot which provides plenty of parking.
- When asked, a man said that crossing Reith can be an issue at times. Others noted that a safer crossing should be looked into.
- Most local residents walk or ride a bike to the park.

Entry

- Clean the park sign

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- Add a gate (was there conversation had around this?)
- Fix the bridges off of 38th, they are not safe. People do park here to access the park.
- Extending the sidewalk and providing parking on 38th would be nice.

Additional considerations and observations:

- Make sure ADA is met. Wheel chair user playing basketball.
- People using the field for batting practice.
- Tennis courts were used for a multitude of activities (tennis was not observed)
- Play area is heavily used. Turf in front is trampled.
- Existing trees are doing well/look healthy though height is generally stunted. Consider how to preserve as many as possible.
- Add play turf to existing mounds in front of play area?
- Basketball court is well used.
- Park has an incredible diversity of users and ages. Need to consider accommodations for all.
- Many people were observed using the loop path

Prepared by:
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